Surface Rescue Swimmer Course

CANOPY ESCAPE

LT 3.4

INTRODUCTION

Performing your duties as a rescue swimmer, the possibility exists that you could find yourself either under or on top of a parachute canopy. The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize rescue swimmer with techniques to handle such a situation.

OBJECTIVES

- List procedural steps for parachute canopy escape.
- Perform a hand-over-hand escape from underneath a collapsed parachute.

Dangers of Collapsed Parachute

- Inability to breathe through a wet parachute.
- Possibility of the parachute sinking and taking survivor with it.
- Rescue swimmer becoming entangled.
- Rescue swimmer or survivor panicking and becoming more entangled.

Entanglement In a Collapsed Parachute

- Should a rescue swimmer inadvertently jump or swim onto a parachute canopy:
- Do not panic!
- Turn onto your back.
- Arch your back to help float your body.
- Scull with the hands while repeatedly opening and closing the legs slowly, no more than shoulder width, until clear of the parachute.
- Once clear of parachute, swim clear of area.

Trapped Under Collapsed Parachute

- Grasp shroud line in parachute seam.
- Lift high above head.
- Swim backwards; utilizing a punching hand over hand movement, keeping them high enough to create an air pocket.
- Once at the apex, reach high to create another air pocket.
- Continue along one given shroud line until clear of parachute.

SUMMARY

- Dangers of Collapsed Parachute
- Entanglement in a Collapsed Parachute.
- Trapped Under Collapsed Parachute.

Questions

- What is the Number One thing you need to do when you get trapped Under a Parachute?
- ***DO NOT PANIC***
- How do you proceed while under the Parachute?
- ***HAND-OVER-HAND***